

2-17-2000

## Montana Kaimin, February 17, 2000

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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# Montana KAIMIN



Kaimin is a Salish word for paper

<http://www.kaimin.org>

Our 102nd year, Issue 64

## UM considers gay partner health plan for employees

Jim Wilkson  
Montana Kaimin

UM's gay employees may soon be able to get health insurance for their long-term partners if a UM-based gay rights group's proposal is approved. It would mark the first time Montana has formally recognized same-sex partnerships.

"If you have a partner of the same sex and you have all the same burdens and benefits of being married, there is no reason why you shouldn't be able to avail yourself of the same health care benefits as if you're married," said Casey Charles, associate English professor and director of the Outfield Alliance, a coalition of gay and lesbian faculty, staff and gradu-

ate students.

The Inter Unit Benefits Committee, which reviews health insurance concerns for the Montana University System, has approved the proposal, saying in part that "it is unlikely that there would be any adverse fiscal impact to the group insurance plan if the decision were made to allow coverage of same-sex domestic partners."

No such recommendations have been made at the state level, however, where approval is necessary to put the proposal into motion.

"The recommendation is under review," said Dick Crofts, higher education commissioner, "but I haven't even thought about (whether

"If you have a partner of the same sex and you have all the same burdens and benefits of being married, there is no reason why you shouldn't be able to avail yourself of the same health care benefits as if you're married."

—Casey Charles, associate English professor and Outfield Alliance director

I'll recommend it or not.)"

Crofts added that he is concerned about the proposal's reception among the general public.

"I think there will be a lot of Montanans who would be opposed to this," Crofts said.

Charles agreed.

"There may be some political fallout from this, but the best decision can be made by avoiding that kind of rhetoric and looking at how important health care is for everybody," Charles said. "I think if the commissioner follows the advice of his advisory board and the best interests of higher education, he will see this is something that's time has come and is ... fair and equitable."

Casey said that he hopes the proposal will attract new teachers at UM.

"Montana has very low salaries and not very many health benefits,

see **INSURANCE**, page 8

## Adventurous students to rough it for credit

Josh Mahan  
Montana Kaimin

Students who want to mix academics with hands-on learning in the back country this spring break have a golden opportunity.

The Wild Rockies Field Institute is offering a 7-day course, worth two biology credits, titled "Winter Ecology of the Northern Rockies."

Participants will be traveling with the aid of snowshoes and will focus on how plants and animals adapt to winter, avalanche safety tips and winter camping skills in the snowy Sapphire Mountains.

Students will learn to dig pits to test for avalanche potential, carve snow caves for emergency survival and safely ascend one of the highest peaks in the range.

"We have students come from all over the country to take this course, but for Montana students it's great

to get to know a place that is so close to home," said Marion Hourdequin, an instructor for the course.

The fee for the course is \$530 plus an additional \$90 filing fee. Included in the cost of the class is round-trip transportation, reading materials and camping and cooking equipment. Dinners are provided, but campers have to supply their own breakfasts, lunches, sleeping bags, backpacks and warm clothing. There is a list of preferred clothing at the Field Institute. Camping gear can be rented inexpensively from the Campus Recreation program.

"The assignments were ideal, practical, interesting and challenging," said Tommy Gerber, a UM student who participated last year. "I reached a connection with both the instructors and my course mates that enhanced the educational experience."

see **CLASS**, page 8



UM students plot a route through the Sapphire Mountains while participating in the Wild Rockies Field Institute's spring break course "Winter Ecology of the Northern Rockies."

## Exam exposes math illiteracy

Melanthia Mitchell  
for the Kaimin

UM students haven't exactly been breaking down doors to qualify for the math literacy exam offered for the first time this semester. Just six students wanted to take the test, but none satisfied the qualifications set by the Faculty Senate, said James Hirstein chair of mathematical sciences.

Approval of the math literacy exam came in December 1998 after the Academic Standards and Curriculum Review committee submitted a proposal to the Faculty Senate.

Offered to students during registration, Hirstein said the exam will provide students the stage to prove their math literacy meets UM standards, in some cases allowing students to bypass math classes.

"Taking this exam is a way for students to certify that they already know the material," Hirstein said.

Students passing the exam will have the

satisfaction of knowing they are not math illiterate and that they meet UM general education requirements.

To take the test, Hirstein said students must meet one of two criteria: score a 28 on the ACT mathematics exam or score at least 630 on the SAT mathematics exam.

The majority of students do not even qualify for the test.

In 1998, 838 students submitted scores for either the ACT or SAT exam. Hirstein said 400 of those students entering UM had a median score of 510 out of 800 on the SAT math exam. The 540 students who submitted scores for the ACT math exam had a median score of 20 out of 36.

The UM math department set the standard for the qualifications in conjunction with the math placement test scores, Hirstein said. When comparing ACT and SAT exams, Hirstein said his department found students' math scores were conducive to their placement scores.

see **MATH**, page 4

## Teens nabbed in UM liquor heist

Rhino says  
Campus Security  
will deal with theft  
of 22  
bottles of alcohol

Nate Schweber  
Montana Kaimin

Five Missoula high school students were busted for stealing 22 bottles of liquor and a case of beer from the Harry Adams Events Center Sky Club last week.

UM Police Lt. Charles Gatewood said the juveniles were playing basketball in

the Adams Center before last Wednesday's Lady Griz game. Gatewood said the youths jumped a fence into the Sky Club area, which is a group of sky boxes reserved for people who donate \$5,000 annually to UM athletics. The youths pried open cabinets containing booze and made off with the liquor.

They were apprehended later that evening because of a Crimestoppers tip.

Kevin Head, owner of the Rhino bar in Missoula, which caters the Sky Club,

see **BOOZE**, page 4



# OPINION

www.kaimin.org/oped.html

## Health Coverage

### Christians should abandon anti-gay rhetoric

Montana's Commissioner of Higher Education, Dick Crofts, is considering something right now that could change lives. It turns out that it would hardly cost anything for the state to expand health coverage to university system employees' homosexual partners and their children.

The Associated Press reported this week, however, that Crofts has one major concern about approving the expansion: political fallout in the Legislature, which allots money to higher education every session. Crofts knows he can't afford to hurt any feelings there. The state's conservative Christians are pretty content with the 1997 law that says homosexual marriages are illegal in Montana. They don't want anyone rocking that boat.

While Crofts ponders his decision, I think we Christians have some considerations to make, as well. Instead of considering the people involved in the situation, we've made it into another gay rights issue, and taken our usual side. Every liberal in the state who read that story in the newspaper blamed the delay on us.

Maybe we deserve it. It's pretty easy to ignore the real issues and turn to our usual rhetoric. They aren't real families, we reason. God just doesn't condone that. Homosexuality is a sin. If we expand health coverage, it will open a floodgate of acceptance that is just not right.

Ahem.

Let's review the acronym on our bracelets.

What would Jesus do?

Jesus was all about healing people. And he didn't discriminate. When Jesus looked at people, he saw them as human beings, not as political pawns or as opportunities to demonstrate his principles. It's time to consider what we're talking about here. University system employees in Montana don't make much money. They work hard to help support their families and the people they love. They can't afford expensive medical treatment, so they have to depend on the insurance the state provides.

It's up to the state to decide whether their family is legitimate. And right now we say it's not.

If you work for the university system and you happen to be a homosexual, it's time to empty out the savings account if someone in your family gets sick or breaks a bone. Why? Not because we can't afford it. It wouldn't cost us much. It's because we don't want to send a mixed message to you about your relationship. It's not legal.

Where did we get the idea that if we don't approve of a person's lifestyle, we should charge them extra for it?

Let's surprise Dick Crofts with our hearty approval. Nobody's expecting it.

—Emily Phillips

## Kevin and the UM semi, part two

Column by



Kevin VanValkenburg

"You know what, Van Valkenburg," my friend said to me the other day,

"you're such a complainer. Every week you gripe, you moan and you get all bent out of shape about some issue you've just happened to declare ridiculously unjust. Is nothing right in your world? Does everything set off your liberal smoke alarm?"

Well, of course, I said. What kind of dumb-ass question is that?

"Ok," he said. "Instead of always bitching about everything, offer up a solution or two. You're like the politician. You stomp your feet, cuss and rant until you get blue in the face, bash everyone for being corrupt or wrong, but you never offer up any answers. You're a hack."

Says you, I replied, though I began to see his point. I'm no genius, but I do have my share of opinions and I'm not afraid to let them fly. So this week I'll try something different. I'm going to offer a solution to my bitching and complaining.

Last week, in an effort to make a point about UM's recruiting tactics, I wrote a column that managed to incense the fine people in the trucking industry. It was not my intent to send them into a slobbering rage, but that was the result nonetheless. I find it hard to believe any reasonable person would think truckers were that way, but maybe I give the world more credit than it warrants. I guess I'll avoid truck stops from here on out, a big loss I'm sure.

However, if the point went unnoticed, that's unfortunate. Having a truck with a UM logo on its side is a swell idea. But let's be realistic and remember that next year's freshman are this year's high school seniors. They're not 40 years old. I don't care what one thinks about Generation X, Y or Z, they're not changing. These are the kids who are growing up on Limp Bizkit, N'Sync, Alex Garland, Korn, Hunter S. Thompson, Kobe Bryant, Britney

Spears, John Grisham, Yahoo!, SportsCenter, Paul Thomas Anderson and eBay. Trucks can be cool, but to out-of-state kids? Especially to those interested in literature, writing or environmental studies, all major draws at UM? Please.

When the money dried up at the start of the year and we had to divvy up the pie sixty different ways from Sunday, the one budget the school was adamant about not cutting was recruiting. Good choice. Now it's time to quit talking like a duck and start walking like a duck.

The truck's purpose was to draw people to UM's website, a traveling billboard, so to speak. But as anyone who has logged on lately can testify, Montana's foray into the World Wide Web is tragically normal. It's not poorly done, it's just not exciting.

If the website is the really the best way to draw kids in, don't hold back. Let's pour some money into it, then tell every kid in the country to check it out. The website can't be a textbook, it has to be a commercial for our school. How about some moving, talking video clips you can download? How about a map of Missoula? A guide to housing, downtown life, sports and culture. Throw in some students

talking about why they went here, but let them be honest about it. If your product is inferior (which, hey, we are compared to University of Washington or Cal Berkeley) then your advertising has to close the gap.

Act realistic, UM. How many kids really look for a school because of its "totally sweet math program"? It's all fine to poo-poo our status as a top "drinking

school" but frankly, lots of kids will look at a college because of the life experience first, then the education. That's a fact of life. Let's play to our strengths. It's not like we're legalizing drugs, we're not just advertising to the grandmothers of the world.

This is the information age, where kids have either a two-second attention span or one half that. To a lot of kids, we look like we're out of touch. Like it or not, running a university is no different than running a business. If people don't buy your product, it doesn't matter how good it is. And as anyone in the business school will tell you, you're either on the cutting edge of things, or you're on your way out.

I'm all for both, but let's work on selling this school in the information age before we talk about how cool our new truck looks.

**This is the information age, where kids have either a two-second attention span or one half that ... like it or not, running a university is no different than running a business**



## Montana Kaimin

Our 102nd Year

The Montana Kaimin, in its 102nd year, is published by the students of The University of Montana, Missoula. The UM School of Journalism uses the Montana Kaimin for practice courses but assumes no control over policy or content.

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## Around the Oval

The Oscar nominations are in ... which unnominated actor deserves some recognition? Who would you nominate? Why?

•Brady Lange

Sophomore, anthropology

"Jeff Bridges. Because he's the dude."

•Katie Little

Freshman, anthropology

"I'd have to say Julia Roberts. She's my favorite actress. 'Stepmom' was my favorite movie."

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## Letters to the Editor

### Cyberbear info easily accessed without hacking

When I heard about cyberbear.umd.edu in yesterday's article, I quickly logged into the site. What I found scared me. None of the data you send to Cyberbear (including your Social Security and pin numbers) is encrypted. Sure, Cyberbear might very difficult to hack, but without encryption, your data can be very easily sniffed.

Most people probably do not know what encryption is, but all you really need to know is encrypted data cannot be read when you send it to Cyberbear. If the data isn't encrypted (which it isn't) then ANYONE with half a computer brain and tools freely available on the internet (hacker tools known as sniffers) can get your information if they want to. It might even be happening as you read this article.

Right now cyberbear.umd.edu is operating in promiscuous mode. Ninety-five percent of the time when a site is in promiscuous mode it means that someone is gathering information from a site. If someone starting sniffing (gathering information from cyberbear.umd.edu) a week ago, they could have hundreds of Social Security/pin number combos. Once they have a person's info they can drop all of that person's classes. Unfortunately, even worse things can be done if a hacker has a person's Social

Security number (such as adding credit cards in your name).

If you have ever used Cyberbear, I urge you to call DialBear and change your pin number. I think the university ought to be ashamed of this web site and should take it down immediately until they add encryption to this site. Any institution of learning should have higher standards than this.

Disclaimer for computer savvy people: The above computer terminology is simplified so that non-techies can understand it. Don't get mad at me if my terminology isn't 100 percent correct, I just wanted to get my point across.

Cory Bertsch  
Senior, computer science

### Trucking column shows tactless prejudice

Palmer Trucking of Missoula graciously painted a new freightliner in the colors of our school. It will, according to the Kaimin, go around the country "(to coincide) with where they're recruiting or there is some kind of UM event." Now, a business goes out of its way and spends \$9,000 that will be practical to their company and beneficial in marketing for the university and the Kaimin editorial staff, namely Kevin Van Valkenburg, "looks the gift horse in the mouth," so to say. He tactlessly generalizes the Midwest, truckers, and transients. Fortunately for him, it is not

slander, for he can hide behind his words because it is an opinion. Unfortunately, this opinion of his is seen in every Kaimin picked up by a U of M student. By the simple wording of putting himself as the trucker he talks about cheating and lying in log books, going into a strip joint and sexually harassing one of the workers. Would that be his way of doing a job? And if so, then who would hire him? By Mr. Van Valkenburg's presentation of his ideas of what a trucker does, he simply and effectively pulls up a beautiful little word called prejudice. He is using ideas that are founded on no research whatsoever and puts them on paper. He effectively calls Palmer Trucking workers a bunch of boozing, harassing, lying, indecent people and has no foundation whatsoever for his ideas. Mr. Van Valkenburg also calls transients "highway filth." Where is his basis for that? It is great that Mr. Van Valkenburg has opinions, but he has to show some idea of what he is talking about before he puts himself in a situation he apparently doesn't have the first clue about. Mr. Van Valkenburg thinks semis are not classy or good enough for him. Well, next time use a little more tact and I might listen without thinking that Mr. Van Valkenburg is just shooting off at the mouth because he has a column in a paper.

Roy Houseman, Jr.  
Freshman, English

### Respect the athleticism of the Sugar Bears

This is a response to the article "Are Sugar Bears Talented or Tasteless?" First off, I myself am a Sugar Bear, and I believe we deserve the respect any other athlete would receive. I laughed at the uninformed and uneducated Courtney Lowery. People who are going to rip things apart need to know the FACTS about the dance team before they open their mouths.

We are not out there just to look pretty on the sidelines. Many hours of dedicated and unappreciated hard work goes into those routines, sideline dances, cheers, etc. We have regular scheduled practices three days a week, three hours minimum of weight lifting and strength training. That doesn't even cover all the time we put into this sport. We also have not just football season, but also basketball season, road trips to games, extra practices, summer camps, and fund-raising events. We do all of this and more to be on the dance team, without any scholarships! We have to purchase our own pants, jazz shoes, team coats and more.

Now, to address the topic of our uniforms ... WAKE UP! We are in college now, a big step away from high school. We have

girls that perform for some of our games who are around the age of 9, and they wear the same type of uniforms. What do you want us to do, wear jerseys?

We, the Sugar Bears, need to be recognized for what we do! We are role models for younger girls, and it shows when we put things on like "Little Griz Dancers & Cheerleaders." We have hundreds of young girls who idolize us, not because of our uniforms, but because of our dancing abilities and TALENTS.

We as a school need to stop tearing our athletes down and start promoting them. All the time you catch articles in the Kaimin about negative things the Athletics Department has done, or what a football player did wrong, etc. It is sick! Stop and take a look at things you might have made a mistake about. They don't get printed because you aren't put in the limelight. Try being there yourself and you will understand! It is a hard job to remain flawless all the time. Start taking the brighter side of things! Start printing more about what they do right and their successes. You will find a lot more of them than you will downsides! Have some school spirit!

Tiffany Lankton  
UM dance team member  
Sophomore, social work

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# ASUM delves into grade change debate

Jason Begay  
Montana Kaimin

In another protest against what they call excessive student fees, ASUM voted to implement a task force to examine the \$100 grade change fee Wednesday.

According to the resolution, the Senate officially opposes the policy. Currently, a grade remains on a student's transcript and figures into the overall grade point average.

The task force, which has yet to be officially created, will research what action best serves the student; dropping the fee, dropping the grade or no action at all.

Lea Taddonio, ASUM senator and resolution author, said the current policy is unfair and a burden to students who must retake a class and still have a "disappointing grade that will be seen by future schools and employers," she said. "It's more important, to most students, to get the bad grade off their record."

The resolution passed with a narrow margin because many senators disliked the notion of dismissing a semester, albeit an unsatisfac-

tory one.

"I don't think it's fair," said Sen. Andrea Irey. "There should be some responsibility when you get a bad grade."

However, most senators agreed that the policy is a burden.

"You're punished by paying the fee, and you're punished by having to take the class again," said Marcus Kosena, business manager.

During the meeting, the Senate also voted to pass the travel budget as recommended by the budget and finance committee with little fanfare. The funds are now available to most of the student groups and organizations that requested travel funds for the spring 2000 semester.

With a very limited travel budget, the committee reviewed each budget request and allocated funds based on need. Unfortunately, most clubs had to walk away disappointed.

With 36 requests from 29 different clubs, the requested travel budgets totaled more than \$60,000. However, the actual budget was limited to \$12,000, Kosena said.

continued from page 1

## Booze

said the juveniles stole \$300-400 worth of alcohol. Head said the Rhino got some of the booze back, but not all.

"The kids got caught at home with some of the liquor by their parents," Head said. "The kids said they got the liquor from a party, and the parents poured it out."

Head said he doesn't think he wants to sue the teens, but he does want them to pay for what they stole.

"I think I'll leave it to the university. I think their insurance will cover most of what was stolen," Head said. "We got dinged and they got caught, so we'll just see how this all plays out."

Head said that when the bartenders noticed the alcohol was missing, they called Campus Security.

Gatewood said security receives many calls about trespassers in the Sky Club, but nothing's ever been stolen.

Head said from now on, the Rhino will find better ways to store its liquor. Head said the bartending staff may transport it from its cabinets to another location, or just bring it back to the Rhino after games.

"We won't have it locked in shelves like before," Head said.

continued from page 1

## Math

Hirstein estimates that of the 2,000 students entering UM each semester, 10 percent will be eligible to take the exam.

Students who benefit from this exam are those majoring in areas that do not require a specific math course, Hirstein said. Passing this test is not a qualifier for skipping a math class required in a major or to avoid retaking a failed class.

Of the 10 percent of incoming students who score high enough to take the test, it is unknown how many are in majors that do not require a math course.

Hirstein said that six students came to him to avoid taking a required math class

or retaking a failed course.

The stipulations set by the Faculty Senate specifically state that the exam is not a comprehensive test for Math 117 and above, rather it only satisfies the basic General Education Requirement.

"You obviously don't have proper math literacy unless you place into a math class," Hirstein said.



Junichi Kuzuoka/Kaimin  
Chair of mathematical sciences Jim Hirstein.

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# New venue brings DJ parties, food and music to town

UM graduate,  
friends hope to  
attract big-name  
acts

Jennifer Sauer  
for the Kaimin

A group of friends have joined forces to open a new concert venue in Missoula, hoping to fill the gap they say exists in the music scene here.

"One thing I've been saying since I moved here was that this town needed some high-end music venues," said Brian Abramson, manager and concert producer at 140 West.

A recent UM graduate, Abramson came together with friends Courtney Whalen and Mike Modarelli to create a place they say Missoula needs.

The trio said they looked at a warehouse near the airport but really wanted a place downtown.

The new club is located where the now-defunct Moose Club was, on Pine Street. The building consists of the club, with an auditorium large enough to fit 450 people, a cafe, and the Bassment, which is downstairs and

holds DJ parties on Friday and Saturday nights.

"We'd been looking for about four months for a venue to do indoor shows," Abramson said. He added that the West Avenue venue houses the three parts of the business perfectly.

The cafe will open next week serving "healthy-style food with an emphasis on organic foods," Abramson said.

The cafe will offer sandwiches, vegetarian entrees and dinner specials, with pizza slices and falafel being served to concertgoers until 3 a.m.

"We want someone to walk out with a full meal for under \$5," Abramson said.

No alcohol is being served yet, so shows are

open in the club and the Bassment, to all ages.

"Future plans do include a beer and wine license," Abramson said.

They hope to obtain the license by June, he said. At that time they may implement an 18-and-over rule.

The Congos played at 140 West on Monday night to a crowd of 200 people, and will

"One thing I've been saying since I moved here was that this town needed some high-end music venues ... We'd been looking for about four months for a venue to do indoor shows."

—Brian Abramson,  
140 West manager



Hon Schlappfer, who volunteered to help renovate 140 West, cuts out upholstery to cover the new bar ledge.

Sarah Smith/Kaimin

host Merl Saunders Feb. 20 and Culture Feb. 22.

Abramson expects the Merl Saunders show will sell out.

Downstairs, the Bassment features DJ parties with out-of-town DJs spinning about once a week for slightly more than the \$4 cover.

In the next few months DJs from Portland, L.A., New York City and Eugene, Ore., are scheduled to appear.

"We'll be flying in a lot of people," said Jason DenUyl, manager of the Bassment.

DenUyl said there are usually about 100 to 200 people at the Bassment on Friday and Saturday nights.

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## February: celebration of black culture

**Spiro Polomarkakis**  
for the Kaimin

It's February, Black History Month, a time to reflect on the history and culture of African Americans and their contributions to America.

To David Gachigo, head of the African Student Association, Black History Month is a time to raise awareness and focus on diversity.

"This is a very important month to raise people's awareness and also a time for people to appreciate diversity," Gachigo said.

Gachigo said UM has done some great stuff this month, but would like to see more done next year.

Others agree with Gachigo.

"The efforts that we (UM) make for Black History Month, fall far short of what it deserves," said Ray Cross, chairman of the Diversity Advisory Council.

Cross, whose group provides funding for students, faculty and community members who contribute to diversity, hopes to see more done for Black History Month next year.

Cross hopes to bring in more speakers and more black performers, but admitted that Missoula may not be the best venue for these events.

"We would love to bring someone like Cornell West to speak here in Missoula on contemporary African-American issues, but if we bring in one big speaker like that, we won't have enough money to do anything else. Another problem is that many of these speakers and performers usually don't travel through cities like Missoula, so it is difficult to get people to come here," Cross said.

Twila Old Coyote, assistant coordinator for the UM Multi-Cultural Alliance, agrees that

there could be more Black History Month activities.

"There could definitely be a lot more awareness on campus," Old Coyote said.

The idea of Black History Month started with a man named Carter G. Woodson, a black historian who is considered the "Father of Black History." He created Negro History Week in 1926.

Negro History Week became Black History Week in the early 1970s, and was established as Black History Month in 1976.

George Price, a professor of both African-American studies and Native American studies, feels that Black History Month should not be limited to just one month.

"Black History Month is a positive thing, but I would like to see people be open to celebrate black culture during any time of the year, not just during one month," Price said.

Price thinks some people look at Black History Month as a token occasion to do special events.

"I would like to see black awareness become a permanent

interest for people, studying African-American history is studying American history. Africans have been a part of American history since the beginning of our country," Price said.

The African-American studies program is searching for a new department director and Price regrets he did not have time to put anything special together for Black History Month.

Price, however, will be speaking on Frederick Douglass and abolitionists on March 9. Price also hopes to organize an event in April to raise awareness on black history and culture.

**"Black History Month is a positive thing, but I would like to see people be open to celebrate black culture during any time of the year, not just during one month."**

— George Price,  
African-American  
studies professor

## Honey bees and beekeepers battle against bloodsucking mites

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A parasitic bloodsucking mite that lives off honey bees is threatening the health of California's beekeeping industry.

The long-established varroa mite, which attaches itself to both pupal and adult bees, has been beaten back for years by beekeepers using a pesticide called Apistan.

Within the last year, however, the mites have developed a resistance to the poison and beekeepers are worried that unless a new chemical is approved for permanent use in the hives, they could lose most of their bee colonies to the invader.

"It's separated the men from the boys as far as beekeeping," said Bakersfield honey bee broker Joe Trainer. "The guys who aren't on top of the mite thing are being forced from the agriculture business because the mites will wipe out an entire hive."

Varroa mites have been haunting American's roughly 2,500 commercial beekeepers since the late 1980s when experts think the pests, native to Asia, were imported into the Southeastern United States from Central America.

It took about five years for the mites to move all over the country. By 1996, the mites had killed many of the nation's wild bee colonies, said Eric Mussen,

a bee specialist at the University of California Cooperative Extension in Davis.

For a few years beekeepers effectively used chemical controls to shield the commercial hives from the brunt of the attack.

"Things took a turn for the worse last year — if you rely on one chemical to control a pest year after year after year, they become resistant," Mussen said.

In addition to their habit of weakening or killing bees by sucking their blood, the varroa mite also carries the "the deformed wing virus." If a pupa is overloaded with the virus, it'll die. A pupa exposed to less of the virus will become a smaller bee with underdeveloped wings or with no wings at all.

Attaching themselves to pupae, the mites infect one brood after another until the entire bee colony falls apart. They then hitch a ride with the surviving adult bees that flee to other colonies in the area and spread the mite infestation and the virus.

Beekeepers in other parts of the country are also complaining about the stepped-up varroa mite attack and have successfully lobbied the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to temporarily allow a new pesticide treatment, called

### Hanging Out



Junichi Kuzuoka/Kaimin

Dance graduate student Stacy Ohrt records what she sees while hanging from a tree near the Social Science Building Tuesday afternoon. Members of Ohrt's dance theory class are studying UM culture.

### GLACIER NATIONAL PARK Where do you see yourself this summer? Choose A or B

- |                                                                                        |                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Sharing a trail with a mountain goat as you hike through snow capped glacier peaks? | B. Commuting in bumper to bumper traffic?                           |
| A. Meeting your new best friend under the "Big Sky" of Montana?                        | B. Spending the summer with the same old crowd?                     |
| A. Watching millions of stars and the northern lights on a clear, cool August night?   | B. Spending hot and humid summer nights next to an air conditioner? |

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# Stolen beer: Sports staff cleared of all charges

## Heroes & Zeros

Here at Kaimin sports, we don't know what it takes to commit the perfect crime. But last week a group of five high school students thought they had committed the perfect crime, Robin Hood style. Our five suspects were playing a little ball at Dahlberg Arena. After building up a man-sized thirst, the five probably realized Gatorade wasn't going to do the trick. They needed something with a kick. As they looked at each other, they realized that none of them could pass for 21. But far above the floor at Dahlberg is the Grizzly Sky Club, complete with a full bar. Well, our parched players proceeded to penetrate the Sky Club bar and pilfer 22 bottles of liquor and a case of beer. Who says high school kids can't drink?

Here at the Kaimin we know stealing is bad. After all, when God gave Charlton Heston those two stone copies of the Bill of Rights, not stealing was like, the third amendment.

However, the best-tasting alcohol is free alcohol. So we must give some props to the

mischievous teenagers. Stealing is bad, but if all that alcohol helped one of those acne-faced, voice-crackin', pubic-hair counting teens meet his own little Britney Spears, then our mission is accomplished. Sometimes morals have to take the back seat.

Sky Club membership runs about 5 Gs and none of us on staff have had a frosty Miller Lite in high society. Besides, they don't let you do shots up there. Remember kids, stealing is bad and is even worse when you get caught. Our delinquents should pay back the money. Hell, if we had the \$500, we'd be good samaritans and pay it back for them. But if we had that kind of flow, we'd be chillin' up in the Sky Box with all the bigwigs ourselves.

Anyway, another week of heroes and zeros we think it's getting old. But then again, it's better than writing a real story. If any of you loyal followers (both of ya), have any suggestions, useful tips or just have nothing better to do, please write us at: kaimin-sports@hotmail.com.

### Heroes

#### Jared Buckmaster

Yes, that's right, another Griz hoop player makes an appearance in the heroes column. The 6-7 junior has been sizzling from 3-point range and is shooting 51 percent from behind the arc. The quiet

Buckmaster has given the Griz offense a surge as of late and has been key in the Grizzlies six-game winning streak. A quick note: One of our many critics out there wrote us and said we are giving too much credit to the basketball team. (OK, we admit it, we're Bench wannabes.) Well, on behalf of Bucky and the rest of the team, our critic will just have to put up with our praise of the Griz. Or at least as long as they keep winning.

### Dennis Rodman

Our favorite NBA bad boy has already been suspended two games into his shortened season. What did you think, he turned into Grant Hill during his hiatus? The bottom line is that the Worm plays hard and NBA refs go out of their way to make life miserable for him. Rodman has burned a few bridges with the refs, but hey, the best referee is the one you don't know is there. Besides, nobody gets ejected from a game like Dennis. Fans not only see Rodman bust his ass for rebounds, dive for every loose ball, but he adds some color to an otherwise dull NBA game. He is a true showman. And now he has added boxing to his repertoire. A possible bout between Rodman and NBA commissioner David Stern would make Don King's hair stand up even straighter. Kaimin sports pick: Rodman in the third

round by knockout.

### Homer J. Simpson

A future Hero Hall of Famer, Mr. Simpson is what our staff aspires to be. The man is completely comfortable being bald, fat and lazy. His quotes are certainly worth repeating. Simpson on gun control: "Eight day waiting period? But I'm mad now." Simpson on sex: "Don't worry Marge, this will only take a minute." And best of all Simpson on school: "OK Brain, I don't like you. You don't like me. But just get me through this test and I will go back to killing you with beer."

### Zeros

#### Portland State

So the Vikings think they're big time and want to join the WAC. Somebody should tell them the WAC is sinking faster than the Titanic and Leo DiCaprio's heterosexuality combined. PSU had to make a deal with the devil to beat us in football and then choked down the stretch against lesser teams. Who sold them on the idea that they were Division I-A material? Tony Robbins. Hey, PSU, go ahead and leave. We'll even hold the door open for you. Just don't let it smack you on the ass on the way out.

### Thesis Statements

Our thesis statement: They suck. That's all there is to it.

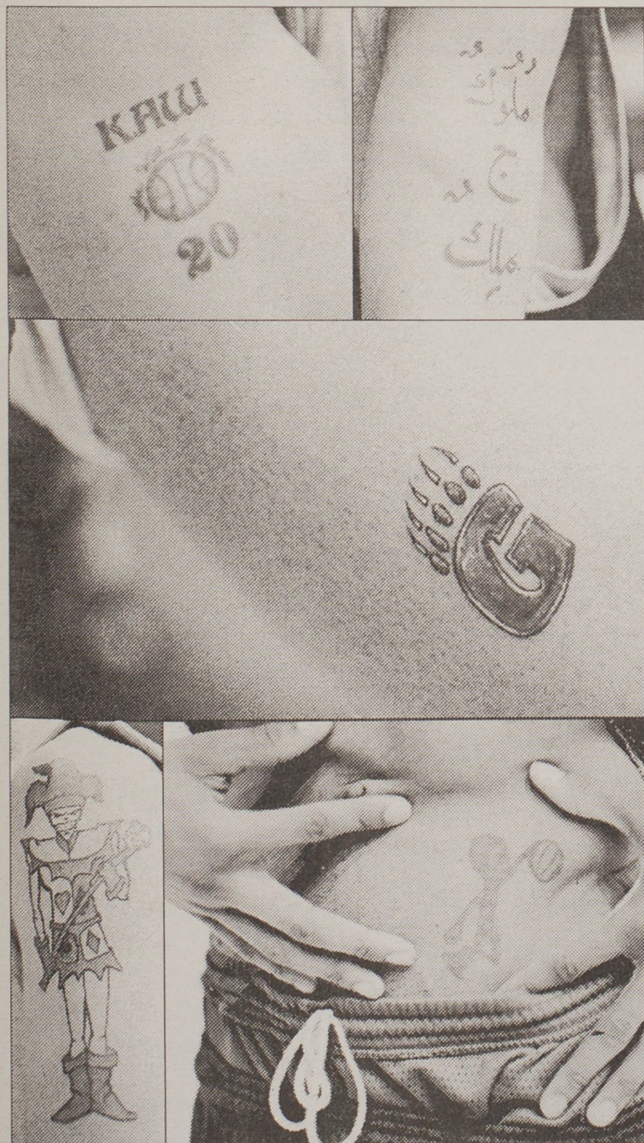
They discriminate against those of us who can't write more than three paragraphs on one subject. Wouldn't it be great if we could write term papers in a Heroes and Zeros format? Just make a list of things and go wherever your mind takes you. After all, isn't one idea just limiting your creativity? How many of us really think on one point? And in conclusion — thesis statements suck.

### Rec Annex Floor

Look, we know plans are in the works for some new digs. But come on. The Fighting Griz hockey team could play on that floor, it's so slippery. When we're breakin' ankles and takin' names at 3 p.m. every day, a dirty-ass floor can be hazardous. We aren't complaining because anyone who has seen us play knows that we're all flash and no cash. The problem is a simple equation: no mopping + wannabe players' street shoes = torn groin and major lawsuit.

■ Griz basketball vs. Cal State Northridge at Dahlberg Arena 7:05

■ Lady Griz at Cal State Northridge 8:05



Photos: Sarah Smith/Kaimin

### Tattoos of the Grizzlies

Clockwise from upper left: junior Kasey Williams, sophomore Ryan Slider, head coach Don Holst, sophomore Shane Christensen, freshman Mike Card.

## CAN YOU RECOGNIZE A GOOD THING WHEN YOU SEE IT? Take this quiz and find out.

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|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| T or F | I have a 3.0 GPA or above                                                                                                        |
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| T or F | I have completed at least 60 undergraduate credits                                                                               |
| T or F | I want to earn my Ph.D. someday                                                                                                  |
| T or F | I would enjoy receiving a \$3600 stipend for doing a research project of my choice                                               |
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# Deadhead brings tales of his wandering years to UM

**Zachary Braun**  
for the Kaimin

What a long strange trip it's been — or so it seems to Dennis McNally, publicist and official biographer for the Grateful Dead, who will lecture at UM next month about his 18 years of experience working for the band.

On Thursday, March 16, McNally will lead a 45-minute lecture and slide show in the University Theater, discussing what it was like working with the legendary rock group.

McNally, a "deadhead" since 1968 when he saw his first Grateful Dead show in New York, was hired in 1982 by Jerry Garcia after reading a dissertation he had written about Jack Kerouac called "Desolate Angel." His title: the Grateful Dead's official biographer.

"When I started this lecture, I thought I was feeding the Dead fans nostalgia for the loss of the band and Jerry Garcia. But I was going to conservative colleges where the people had never seen the band, and they were just interested in an academic sense."

—Dennis McNally, Grateful Dead biographer

"I just went everywhere with the band, listened closely and conducted many interviews," McNally said.

Following his stint as biographer, McNally worked as the band's publicist.

"Being a publicist makes you in charge of the band's visual media, such as photographers and movie cameras,"

ing the Dead fans nostalgia for the loss of the band and Jerry Garcia," said McNally. "But I was going to conservative colleges where the people had never seen the band, and they were just interested in an academic sense."

Tickets for the lecture, which will go on sale next week, are \$10 for students and \$12 for the general public.

McNally said. "I was in charge of giving them reasonable access to the band and keeping them out of the band's hair."

McNally said he's traveled across the country about a dozen times every year since 1996, giving lectures on college campuses.

"When I started this lecture, I thought I was feed-

continued from page 1

## Class

rience."

"This is a great chance for UM students to get outside and learn about the plant and wildlife during our longest season: winter," said Matt Thomas, a course instructor.

A limited number of partial scholarships are available and any interested students have to apply by early next week.

For more information contact the Wild Rockies Field Institute at 549-4336 or visit their website at [www.wildrockies.org/wrfi](http://www.wildrockies.org/wrfi).

continued from page 1

## Insurance

and this is one way to attract and keep faculty members," Charles said.

Charles said the health insurance proposal will benefit the entire university system.

"It's an important step in complying with the anti-discrimination clause the university system has," Charles said. "There is an anti-discrimination clause based on sexual orientation in the university policy handbook. The

failure to provide these benefits may in fact be in violation of these clauses."

Because gays and lesbians are not legally allowed to marry in Montana, the health care proposal only covers "partners." The proposal, however, includes a form applicants must complete to prove they are indefinitely committed and sharing the burdens distinct to marriage to receive coverage. According to a recent

Harvard study on same-sex health coverage, the proposal's overall financial effect on the university system will be minimal if it passes.

The Harvard study said of 15 institutions analyzed, the average increase in usage among those institutions extending coverage to same-sex couples is 0.3 percent.

At the University of Iowa, one of the first schools in the country to adopt a proposal similar to Outfield Alliance's,

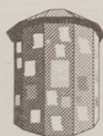
about 0.2 percent of employees took advantage of the program, at an annual cost of less than \$100,000.

The University of Iowa is one of about 130 American colleges and universities offering same-sex health benefits. Western schools that do so include the University of Colorado-Boulder and the University of Oregon.

In addition to academic institutions, many business-

es are beginning to offer same-sex health benefit programs.

"Companies such as IBM and Levi Strauss have already taken the lead with this," Charles said. "The private sector is in some ways leading the charge on this in order to accommodate and promote an atmosphere of good will in their corporations."



# kiosk

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**All you can eat!!** Pancake and French Toast Breakfast. This Saturday, Feb 19 8:00am-12:00pm at Christ the King Church, 1400 Gerold. Tickets available at the door or call 243-4753 (\$2.50/person).

The Crystal Theater, walk from campus. Enjoy a Bridge Pizza and a movie. Showtimes 728-5748.

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#### LOST AND FOUND

The Kaimin will run classified ads for lost or found items free of charge. They can be three lines long and will run for three days. They must be placed in person in the Kaimin business office, Journalism 206.

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